

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 19, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Lance Harris, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, vice chairman
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Laurie Schlegel
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borné, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Jacqueline Snowden, committee administrative assistant
Alexandra Cravins, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Kalan Jenkins, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt a three-minute rule for presenters, witnesses, and members to speak. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, and Tarver voted yea.

House Bill No. 455 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Bill No. 455, which provides relative to minimum qualifications of teachers at certain nonpublic schools.

Dennis Schaffer, Open Door Christian Academy, 7000 Gloryland Way, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 588-2361, spoke in support of House Bill No. 455.

Ethan J. Melancon, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 455

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 455 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 455 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 546 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Bill No. 546, which provides relative to the requirements for admission into a teacher education program and presented handouts from the Louisiana School Boards Association, "Teacher Training Guidelines", and the Louisiana Department of Education, "Response to HR 126 of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session" dated February 12, 2022, both of which are included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit A.

Barry Erwin, Council for A Better Louisiana, P.O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-2225, spoke in support of House Bill No. 546.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke in support of House Bill No. 546.

Representative Harris offered amendments to eliminate the English proficiency component of the exam required for teacher certification. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the

proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Paula Summers Calderon, Louisiana Deans of Education, 1300 North General Pershing, Hammond, LA 70403, (225) 337-6403, spoke in support of House Bill No. 546.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 546 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 546 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 888 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 888, which requires the Board of Regents to establish a "Hunger-Free Campus" designation program and related grant program for postsecondary education institutions.

Davante Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway Suite 1-D, spoke in support of House Bill No. 888.

Chris Broadwater, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (985) 634-3283, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 888.

Kimberly Hayes, 17232 Jefferson Highway, no city or state given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 888.

Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 426-7104, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 888.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Bill No. 888 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 888 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 400 by Representative Hodges

Representative Hodges presented House Bill No. 400, which requires instruction relative to cardiac health in high school.

Representative Harris offered amendments that this Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Grayson Temple Act". Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Harris offered amendments that:

- (1) Removed a requirement for cardiac health instruction for students; and
- (2) Added a requirement for sudden cardiac arrest education for school nurses, coaches, athletic trainers, and athletic directors.

Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Scott Arceneaux, Louisiana Athletic Trainers Association, 12075 Highway 431, St. Amant, LA, (225) 315-8110, spoke in support of House Bill No. 400.

Michelle Temple, 8064 Olivia Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70706, (225) 788-0021, spoke in support of House Bill No. 400.

Sarah Vandergriff, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 320 Metairie-Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 430-6749, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 400.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 400.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 400 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 400 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 12 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 963 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 963, which requires instruction in water safety for public school students.

Nicole O. Bourgeois, 278 Superior Drive, Raceland, LA 70394, (985) 665-2866, spoke in support of House Bill No. 963.

Darby Bourgeois, no witness card provided, was present in support of House Bill No. 963.

Sarah Vandergriff, LAPCS, 320 Metairie-Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 430-6749, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 963.

Ethan Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 963.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 963 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 963 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 921 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 921, which provides relative to adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed education.

Representative Harris offered amendments that:

- (1) Deleted requirements relative to monies from the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund being used for proposed law purposes; and
- (2) Removed references to "trauma-informed" education from present law and proposed law, and changed all references to "trauma-informed" education and outreach to "adverse childhood experience" education and outreach.

Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, and St. Blanc voted yea.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 921 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 921 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Vice Chairman Jefferson in the chair.

House Bill No. 940 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 940, which provides relative to student enrollment at charter schools. Representative Freiberg distributed a handout, "Report to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education: 2019-2020 Report on School Performance According to Requirements Under R.S. 17:3991 and BESE Bulletin 126, Chapter 27, Section 2713", which is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit B.

Caroline Roemer, LAPCS, no address given, Metairie, LA, (225) 229-7100, spoke in support of House Bill No. 940.

Sarah Vandergriff, LAPCS, 320 Metairie-Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 740.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments to link the percentage of students with exceptionalities and economically disadvantaged students required to be enrolled in a charter school to students residing within the geographic area from which a charter school draws its students instead of to students in the parish(es) from which a charter school draws its students. Representative Freiberg offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Chairman Harris in the chair.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 940.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 940.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 940 with amendments, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 940 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support, and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Vice Chairman Jefferson in the chair.

House Bill No. 977 by Representative Harris

Representative Harris presented House Bill No. 977, which provides relative to sick leave granted to teachers, school employees, and school bus operators.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 977.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 977 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 977 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Harris announced that House Bill No. 536 by Representative Cox, which lowers the minimum ACT score required for initial qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award from 17 to 15, would be rescheduled for a subsequent meeting.

Chairman Harris announced that House Bill No. 819 by Representative Cox, which provides relative to extended sick leave for school bus operators and public school employees, would be rescheduled for a subsequent meeting.

Chairman Harris announced that House Bill No. 946 by Representative Dustin Miller, which provides relative to the membership and reports of special education advisory councils, would be rescheduled for a subsequent meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Amedée offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: